

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating nanoparticles of gold, silver or platinum group metals; the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) adsorbing dissolved species of gold, silver or platinum group metals using an absorbent;
 - (b) ashing the loaded absorbent to produce ashes; and
 - (c) removing impurities from the said ashes.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said dissolved species include complexes of cyanide, chloride and thiourea.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said absorbent includes activated carbon and resin.